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15 September 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Preliminary Discussions Concerning
Organization of OCB

1. At the suggestion of Messrs. Felt and Wiener, I represented CIA at meetings held on 11 and 14 September 1953 for preliminary, working-level discussions of the initial organizational problems of OCB. The meetings were chaired by [redacted]

[redacted] and myself. For the sake of convenience the discussion was broken into a number of submeetings which followed, together with the gist of the comments concerning them.

a. Designate Acting Executive Officer and Deputy.

[redacted] said he understood that, initially at least, Mr. [redacted] would be designated Executive Officer and that he [redacted] would be Deputy with the primary duty of administering the OCB staff.

b. Authorize Acting Executive Officer to use PSB staff and resources for OCB work until other arrangements are made.

It was the feeling of [redacted] concurred in by the other consultants, that the former PSB staff and financing arrangements should continue to function under the OCB until new arrangements can be made. Although the legal authorization for such a procedure is somewhat tenuous, it was the feeling of [redacted] that it could continue without embarrassment until 1 January 1954 if necessary.

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c. Decide general pattern of administrative support.

In view of the Attorney General's position that past financing arrangements for PSB were questionable, it was the consensus that future administrative support of OGB and its staff must come on a more direct line from the participating agencies. It was agreed that all staff personnel should be assigned directly by the several agencies and not maintained upon a separate payroll. A figure of 20 to 25 persons was considered to be the optimum size of the staff but no specific recommendations were agreed upon.

d. Agree on timetable for PSB-OGB transfer.

Mr. Morgan noted that it would be necessary to give divisional notices by 2 October 1953 to employees dropped from the old PSB staff and that the extent of such dismissals should be made known to the OGB in its meeting 30 September 1953. A plan for administrative support also should be prepared in time for the 30 September meeting.

e. Note that all PSB approved projects and projects remain in force until specifically dealt with by OGB.

It was agreed that this was necessary.

f. Review existing PSB projects and approved projects and draft recommendations for their disposition.

This was considered a priority activity for the new Executive Officer and his Deputy.

g. Instruct the Acting Executive Officer:

(1) to estimate the kind and amount of work to be expected by the OGB staff and draft an estimate of staff requirements,

(2) to draft recommendations for continuation of the necessary functions of the former POCG,

(3) to draft procedures for liaison with other elements under the purview of NSC.

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There was general agreement that the OCB staff should be kept as small as possible while maintaining an adequate reservoir of area, functional and procedural know-how. I made the point, which was not disputed, that one function of the staff would be to provide over allocation of responsibility for various activities and another function would be to monitor these activities to determine the rate of their progress, so that the actual work of both planning and operating should be done by the agencies themselves. I suggested that ad hoc working committees, such as that established for HSC 158, would probably prove necessary for the effective implementation of major policy papers, especially those requiring close coordination of operations by two or more agencies. In this connection, [redacted] made the point that the Department of Defense would wish to maintain a representation on such groups separate from that which might be maintained by the JIC. There was general agreement that, in order to carry out the spirit of the [redacted] Report, such working arrangements should retain the highest possible degree of flexibility and informality but that they should also carry sufficient delegated authority to assure the expeditious accomplishment of tasks.

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2. There was only passing mention of HSC 10/2 and 10/5 priorities at these meetings but there was agreement that CIA should not be pressed to reveal operational details at any point of the OCB process except to the extent that the OCB itself might require them.

SIGNED/C. TRACY BARNES

for

[redacted]
Deputy Chief

Political and Psychological Warfare

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PP/ [redacted]
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